

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (Currently amended). A nutritional composition for liver disease patients comprising: a milk protein hydrolysate in an amount of 0.9 to 3 g per 100 mL of the composition and [[a]] protein derived from fermented milk in an amount of 2.5 to 4.5 g per 100 mL of the composition as proteins; a high oleic acid-containing oil and milk lecithin and/or soybean lecithin as lipids; and palatinose in an amount of 4 to 15 g per 100 mL of the composition as a carbohydrate.

2 (Currently amended). The nutritional composition according to claim 1, wherein the source of said milk protein hydrolysate is a hydrolysate of a milk protein selected from the group consisting of casein, a milk protein concentrate (MPC), a whey protein concentrate (WPC), a whey protein isolate (WPI), α -lactoalbumin, β -lactoglobulin, and lactoferrin.

3 (Original). The nutritional composition according to claim 1, wherein said fermented milk-derived protein is from a composition in which the whey in fermented milk has been reduced.

4 (Original). The nutritional composition according to claim 1, wherein said fermented milk-derived protein is from fresh cheese.

5 (Original). The nutritional composition according to claim 4, wherein said fresh cheese is quark.

6 (Previously presented). The nutritional composition according to claim 1, wherein said milk protein hydrolysate may be obtained by hydrolyzing a whey protein isolate (WPI) with endoprotease from *Bacillus licheniformis*, and trypsin from a porcine pancreas.

7 (Previously presented). The nutritional composition according to claim 6, wherein the milk protein hydrolysate is a permeate obtained by further treatment with an ultrafiltration membrane having a fractionation molecular weight of 10,000 Da.

8 (Previously presented). The nutritional composition according to claim 7, wherein the chromatogram from reverse phase HPLC separation of the milk protein hydrolysate is shown in Fig. 1.

9 (Currently amended). A nutritional composition for patients under high levels of invasive stress, wherein said nutritional composition comprises: a milk protein hydrolysate in an amount of 0.9 to 3 g per 100 mL of the composition and a protein derived from fermented milk in an amount of 2.5 to 4.5 g per 100 mL of the composition as proteins; a high oleic acid-containing oil and milk lecithin and/or soybean lecithin as lipids; and palatinose in an amount of 4 to 15 g per 100 mL of the composition as a carbohydrate.

10 (Currently amended). The nutritional composition according to claim 9, wherein the ~~source~~ of said milk protein hydrolysate is a hydrolysate of a milk protein selected from the group consisting of casein, a milk protein concentrate (MPC), a whey protein concentrate (WPC), a whey protein isolate (WPI), α -lactoalbumin, β -lactoglobulin, and lactoferrin.

11 (Original). The nutritional composition according to claim 9, wherein said fermented milk-derived protein is from a composition in which the whey in the fermented milk has been reduced.

12 (Original). The nutritional composition according to claim 9, wherein said fermented milk-derived protein is from fresh cheese.

13 (Original). The nutritional composition according to claim 12, wherein said fresh cheese is quark.

14 (Previously presented). The nutritional composition according to claim 9, wherein said milk protein hydrolysate may be obtained by hydrolyzing a whey protein isolate (WPI) with endoprotease derived from *Bacillus licheniformis*, and trypsin from a porcine pancreas.

15 (Previously presented). The nutritional composition according to claim 14, wherein the milk protein hydrolysate is a permeate obtained by further treatment with an ultrafiltration membrane having a fractionation molecular weight of 10,000 Da.

16 (Previously presented). The nutritional composition according to claim 15, wherein the chromatogram from reverse phase HPLC separation of the milk protein hydrolysate is shown in Fig. 1.

17 (Currently amended). A method for providing nutrition to a patient having liver disease and/or a high level of invasive stress, wherein said method comprises administering, to such a patient, a nutritional composition that comprises:

a milk protein hydrolysate in an amount of 0.9 to 3 g per 100 mL of the composition and a protein derived from fermented milk in an amount of 2.5 to 4.5 g per 100 mL of the composition as proteins; a high oleic acid-containing oil and milk lecithin and/or soybean lecithin as lipids; and palatinose in an amount of 4 to 15 g per 100 mL of the composition as a carbohydrate.

18 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 17, wherein ~~the source~~ of said milk protein hydrolysate is a hydrolysate of a milk protein selected from the group consisting of casein, a milk protein concentrate (MPC), a whey protein concentrate (WPC), a whey protein isolate (WPI), α -lactoalbumin, β -lactoglobulin, and lactoferrin.

19 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 17, wherein said fermented milk-derived protein is from a composition in which the whey in fermented milk has been reduced.

20 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 17, wherein said fermented milk-derived protein is from fresh cheese.

21 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 20, wherein said fresh cheese is quark.

22 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 17, wherein said milk protein hydrolysate may be obtained by hydrolyzing a whey protein isolate (WPI) with endoprotease from *Bacillus licheniformis*, and trypsin from a porcine pancreas.

23 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 22, wherein the milk protein hydrolysate is a permeate obtained by further treatment with an ultrafiltration membrane having a fractionation molecular weight of 10,000 Da.

24 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 23, wherein the chromatogram from reverse phase HPLC separation of the milk protein hydrolysate is shown in Fig. 1.

25 - 30 (Cancelled).

31 (New). The method of claim 17, wherein the increase of the inflammatory cytokine is suppressed in the patient administered with the nutritional composition.

32 (New). The method of claim 17, wherein the patient has liver cirrhosis.

33 (New). The method of claim 17, wherein the patient has hepatic failure.